



Bradford County Newsletter

Your Government Working for You!

Updates: Bradford County Natural Gas

By: Michelle Shedden

Gas Exploration Advisory Committee Meets

The first meeting of the Bradford County Gas Exploration Advisory Board met on July 23, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. at the Bradford County Conservation Building. Much discussion was focused on how the board could best serve the interests of the people of

Bradford County. County Commissioner Mark W. Smith was elected to be Chairman of the board. At the next meeting the board will discuss what specific committees will be formed. Possible committees may include Economic Develop-

ment, Environmental, Public Outreach, Government Relations, etc. The next meeting will be held on August 20, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the Bradford County Conservation District Office.

Gas Leasing for County Property Out for Bid

On July 31, 2008 the Board of Commissioners authorized the Chief Clerk to advertise for gas leasing bids for Bradford County properties. The Commissioners will meet with the County Solicitor on

August 4, 2008 to finalize the bid specifications. The intention of the bid specifications will be to layout the protection and limitation or property in the event of any gas drilling. This is important

since most of the county land is county park land. It is likely that advertising will begin late next week. Bradford County currently owns over 930 acres.

Commissioners to Investigate Impacts in Wise County, Texas

The Bradford County Commissioners are working with Wise County Commissioner Kevin Burns for the coordination of a trip to Texas to explore their natural gas situation. They will discuss issues that are relevant to Bradford County's gas drilling operations. Texas is a hotbed of natural gas with similar drilling characteristics to what will impact our county. There are five members of the gas exploration advisory board who will be visiting Wise County, Texas to see first hand the effects the drilling has had on

the area and the population. Those attending include: Mark Smith, John Sullivan, Doug McLinko, Tony Ventello, Brian Driscoll, Jason Petlock, and Robert Storch. Also joining the group will be Penn State Cooperative agent Thomas Murphy. The group will be at the Decatur Civic Center on Monday and will have meetings with the Tax Assessor, Sheriff Department, State Senator and State Representative, regulatory authorities and gas company representatives. On

Tuesday they will be traveling to several work sites to see first hand the drilling operations, gas compressor stations, injection wells and a gas scrubbing plant. On Wednesday they will be visit-

ing North Texas College where they will look at a gas industry education program. They will also be meeting with community members and attending a Commissioners meeting.

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We Need Your Help!

We would like to remind all the recipients of this monthly E-mail newsletter to help us add to our growing list of subscribers. We encourage all of our readers to pass the newsletter on to friends and family.

[Sign Up Here!](#)

Voter Hall of Fame Luncheon Held

By: Marie Zbyszinski

On July 23rd, the Bradford County Board of Elections hosted a luncheon to recognize and honor those voters who have voted in every November election for at least 50 consecutive years. The voters have been inducted into the PA Voter Hall of Fame. The American Legion Post 42 Towanda provided the

location and food for the event. Joining the Commissioners in honoring these voters were State Representatives Matthew Baker and Tina Pickett, Senator Roger Madigan and on behalf of Congressman Chris Carney, Mrs. Jennifer Carney and Paul Macknosky, District Director.

The Pennsylvania Department of State issued Certificates to each Hall of Fame inductee, the House of Representatives issued Citations to all, the Senator presented them with Citizenship Award pins and the Commissioners gave flag lapel pins.



Special honors were given to the following voters for their consecutive years of voting: *Eleanor Thompson, 71 years; George Kerrick, 68 years; Patrick Barrett, Jr., 66 years; Betty Jenkins, 64 years; Lynn Maynard, 62 years; Bernard Robbins, 62 years*

New Director of Human Services Hired

By: Michelle Shedden

Bradford County Commissioners announced the hire of a new Human Services director. Mr. William D. Blevins will begin work on September 8, 2008. Mr. Blevins has a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education and a Master of Education in Secondary Education. He brings years of experience and knowl-

edge to the position, ranging from management and operations of children and adolescent programs to director of services to the armed forces. Mr. Blevins has received a letter of Commendation from the Department of the Navy for superior performance of his duties while assigned as director of Military Services and a

certificate of Commendation from the American Red Cross for achieving the highest financial and certificate increase in Safety Services as a district.



New Warden Begins His Work

By: Mark Smith

On Monday July 28, 2008, the new Bradford County Warden Don Stewart began his duties at the Bradford County Correctional Facility. Warden Stewart was formerly the Warden at the Susquehanna County jail. He is a Veteran of the Marine Corps and worked for the Maryland Department of Corrections for 20 years.

Interim Warden Wayne Gavin from the PA Department of Corrections has been heading up the facility since May and has made many staffing, procedural and facility improvements. Interim Warden will cease his duties as Interim Warden as of August 1, 2008. A full report of his experiences and recommendations will be provided to the Bradford County Prison Board.

Newsletter Now Available as Download from County Website

By: Michelle Shedden

In response to requests received the Commissioners Office has added the Bradford County Newsletter on the county website for those who do not have email access. It is now available by going to and clicking on the Newsletter link. In the future all newsletters will be added to provide residents access to all past newsletters.

www.bradfordcountypa.org

Understanding Bradford County Planning & Grants

Part 2: The Comprehensive Plan

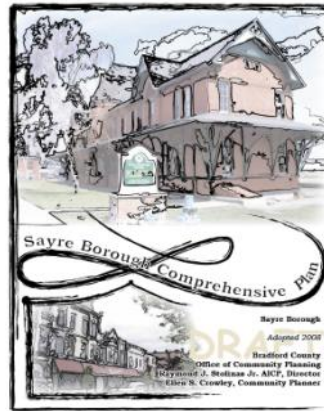
By: Ray Stolinas

The Office of Community Planning and Grants promotes and assists municipalities with the overall development and implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. This office also managed the development of the 2004 County Comprehensive Plan and hired a consultant, Gannett Flemming to assist in writing the plan. What is the Comprehensive Plan? Simply put, it is a “blueprint” for how a community or region wants to grow and develop over time. It considers elements such as housing, transportation, population, land use, public utilities, community facilities and potential historic resources. It is simply a “public-private” partnership between local government, landowners and those that want to develop land within the municipality. The Comprehensive Plan is

based on U.S. Census data and GIS data/mapping to help research trends and changes that support the development overall goals and objectives of the community. A county comprehensive plan is a more generalized approach in analyzing growth trends and opportunities for developing more specific comprehensive plans for local townships and boroughs. In other words, it can set the groundwork for those municipal plans and provide consistency between county and local planning initiatives. The Comprehensive Plan is not a law or ordinance, however, it helps a community decide how to establish planning tools such as zoning, subdivision/land development, the official map and even intergovernmental cooperative planning initiatives among two or more municipalities. All county and municipal planning activity is governed through Act 247 of 1968, otherwise known as the PA Municipalities Planning Code.

Elected officials typically charge their county, township or borough Planning Commission with the task of developing the comprehensive plan. A planning consultant is usually hired to help the municipality with writing the plan and preparing maps, tables and

public meetings to garner public input on issues related to change within the community. In 2003, the Bradford County Commissioners hired the county’s first Community Planner to assist municipalities in writing their comprehensive plan.



Our current Community Planner, Ellen Crowley, started in January of 2008 and is currently completing the Sayre Borough Comprehensive Plan and in the midst of developing an update to the Wyalusing Township Comprehensive Plan. Since 2003, our office has assisted in developing at least 15 municipal plans and continues to provide technical support in the implementation phase of the plans. The Community Planner intends on assisting municipalities with developing more advanced planning tools after the municipality finally adopts the plan.

The comprehensive plan is developed with much public input.

For example, during the development of the county plan, the County Commissioners appointed residents, agency representatives, business owners and municipal officials to the

Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee. This Committee discussed quality of life issues and how the county encourages growth with consideration for its unspoiled rural character. The group participated open dialogue about the county, better known as S.W.O.T. – Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats. Approximately 50 people participated with the Advisory Committee. At the municipal level, we encourage townships and boroughs to do the same by conducting mail-in surveys and “visioning” meetings to gather input on local issues that the municipality may face now or in the not so distant future. After hearing comments from the public, the county, township or borough formulates goals and objectives for the future of their community. Goals being the place where you want to get to and objectives being the path leading you there. This can be tough because the planning commission does not have a crystal ball at their disposal, only the volumes of data, maps and charts to guide them into making better decisions on how their community grows or stagnates.

Renowned Planner Fredrick Law Olmstead said it best and directly relates to comprehensive planning, “prevention is cheaper than the cure” and that is what comprehensive planning strives to do.



Detailing Existing
Conditions, Values,
Goals, Objectives,
Strategies and Initiatives
for Bradford County
for the next 20 years.

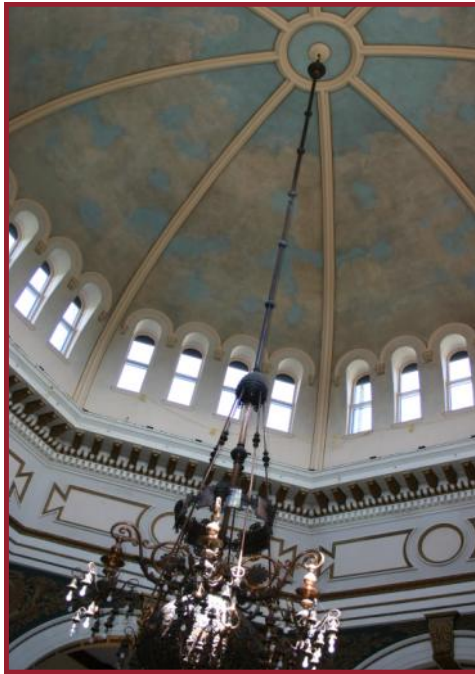
Bradford County
Comprehensive Plan
Adopted March 11, 2009



Courthouse Dome Repair & Restoration Complete

By: Michelle Shedden

After eight weeks of work the first stage of the dome restoration project is complete. During the process of restoration it was brought to the Commissioners attention that the Cornice was in desperate need of repair. Because the original bid for the dome restoration came in at much lower amount than budgeted, the Commissioners decided to use the money to bid out the Cornice work. The bid was opened on June 26, 2008, but was much higher than was estimated. The contractor who bid the project thought that he might be able to get the scaffolding at a lower rate, so the Commissioners decided to rebid the project. The second bid was opened on July 31, 2008, and came in at exactly the same amount as the first. The Commissioners are taking the bid under consideration and will make a decision at the next meeting.



County Government Directory

Accounting	265-1723	911 Center	265-9101
Assessment	265-1714	Conservation District	265-5539
Auditor	265-1716	Coroner	297-0720
Bradford County Human Services	265-1760	District Justice (Troy)	297-3880
Bradford County Manor	297-4111	District Justice (Towanda)	268-5057
Collections	265-1746	District Justice (Wysox)	265-9393
Commissioners	265-1727	District Justice (Athens)	888-6324
Courts	265-1707	Emergency Management Agency	265-5022
District Attorney	265-1712	Planning	268-4103
Domestic Relations	265-1718	Grants	268-4193
Elections	265-1717		
Hearing Master	265-1711		
Jury Commissioners	265-1732		
Personnel	265-1722		
Probation	265-1706		
Prothonotary	265-1705		
Public Defender	265-1713		
Register & Recorder	265-1702		
Sheriff	265-1701		
Treasurer	265-1700		
Veterans Affairs	265-1704		
Victim Witness	265-1759		
Penn State Agricultural Extension	265-2896		
Area Agency on Aging	265-6121		
Airport	265-4900		
Library	297-2436		
Correctional Facility	297-5047		

Bradford County Court House
301 Main St.
Towanda, PA 18848

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Fax: 570-265-1729

www.bradfordcountypa.org

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